

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

The attached drawing sheet 1/2 includes changes to Figure 1. This sheet replaces original Figure 1, drawing sheet 1/2.

Attachment: Replacement Sheet 1/2.

REMARKS

The above amendments and following remarks are responsive to the points raised in the December 7, 2005 non-final Office Action. Upon entry of the above amendments, Claims 1, 13-14 will have been amended and Claims 1-15 will be pending. No new matter has been introduced. Entry and reconsideration are respectfully requested.

Response to Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112, Second Paragraph

The Examiner has rejected Claims 13-15 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, "as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Applicants have amended the claims to obviate this rejection.

According, the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, should be withdrawn.

Response to Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)

Claims 1, 2, 4, 5, and 15 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being unpatentable over US Patent 5,633,710 to Kumra et al. (Kumra). Claims 1-5 and 15 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being unpatentable over US Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0075691 to Couillaud et al. (Couillaud). Claims 1-7, 12, and 15 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being unpatentable over US Patent 6,144,159 to Lopez et al. (Lopez). Applicants traverse these rejections.

The applied references of Kumra, Couillaud, and Lopez all disclose a device for projecting a light spot on the road ahead of a vehicle, and a device for observing and analyzing such spot. The subject matter of Applicants claims, however, provides for a device for observing

the road scene ahead of the vehicle, determining a property of the observed road scene by image processing emission of a light spot in the observed road scene, and adjusting the orientation of the headlamp as a function of the position of the image of the light spot in the image of the scene. Contrary to the Examiner's comments in Paragraph 10D on Page 5 of the December 7, 2005 non-final Office Action, the Lopez disclosure does not include determining the horizon line in the road scene extending in front of the vehicle. As disclosed by Lopez, in Column 4, Lines 50-55, for example,

“[T]he sensor assembly 30 is oriented toward the road 14 at the front of the automobile and includes a data point creation optic guide 31 and a plurality of plotters 321 for plotting graphically or in another manner the reflected radiation from the irradiated spots on the road 14.”

Lopez simply projects light spots on the road and examines them through a camera device, much in the same manner as is also disclosed the other applied references of Kumra and Couillaud. As such, the subject matter of Applicants' claims are distinguished over the applied references of Kumra, Couillaud, and Lopez.

Accordingly, the rejections of 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) over Kumra, Couillaud, and Lopez should be withdrawn.

Response to Objection of the Drawings

The drawings have been objected to on the basis that “blocks 5 and 8 of Fig. 1 must have descriptive legends.”

Applicants have amended Figure 1 to include the legends of “Motor” and “Image Processing Unit” for blocks 5 and 8, respectively.

Accordingly, the objection to the drawings is now moot and should be withdrawn.

CONCLUSION

Applicant respectfully submits that Claims 1-15 are in condition for allowance and a notice to that effect is earnestly solicited.

AUTHORIZATION

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees which may be required for filing this response to Office Action to Deposit Account No. 13-4500, Order No. 1948-4827.

Respectfully submitted,

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